

Cal/EPA

California
Environmental
Protection
Agency



Department of
Pesticide
Regulation

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January 7, 1998

The Honorable Carole Migden
California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, California 94249-0001

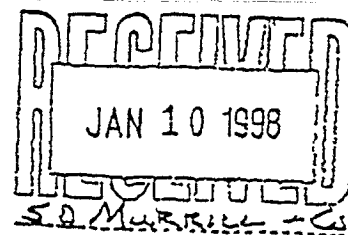
Dear Assembly Member Migden:

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) actively supports and participates as a member on a number of CalFed Bay-Delta Water Quality Programs (CalFed Program). Successfully resolving Bay-Delta water quality problems demands scientifically sound procedures and decisions. The initial course chosen by the CalFed Program will initiate an estimated 20 to 30 years commitment. Prior to embarking on such a critical, long-term commitment, a full scientific dialogue must occur.

At the December 3, 1997 Parameter Assessment Team (Team) meeting, Mr. Stephen Murrill made two specific requests and posed general procedural questions. For the record, DPR supports the questions raised by Mr. Murrill, but does not support his specific requests. Mr. Murrill made two specific requests of the Team:

- the three pesticides—carbofuran, chlorpyrifos, and diazinon be deleted from the Parameters of Concern;
- pesticides not be listed individually by name, but rather they be listed as a class as "pesticides."

The Team determined that the three pesticides would remain on the Parameters of Concern and that pesticides should be listed individually by name. DPR supported these decisions of the Team



Pete Wilson
Governor

Peter M. Rooney
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

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Director

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for two reasons. First, any decision to modify the Parameter of Concern list should only occur after the Team establishes a clear procedure. The general questions raised by Mr. Murrill will assist in that effort. Secondly, as the lead pesticide regulatory agency, DPR acknowledges the potential water quality impact of certain pesticide practices. We take our water quality commitment seriously as evidenced by our actions. DPR conducts surface water monitoring in the Bay Delta and has placed restrictions on pesticides found to adversely impact water quality. Identifying specific pesticides to prioritize for monitoring and potential mitigation will assist in targeting limited resources toward the most critical need. The CalFed Program will assist our ongoing water quality efforts.

DPR supports Mr. Stephen Murrill's efforts in requesting clarification of a number of issues in determining the Parameters of Concern. Mr. Murrill asked the following questions of the CalFed Water Quality Program Team:

- Will CalFed be setting their own levels rather than using levels established by the agencies with authority to enforce these levels?
- What are the specific criteria for causing a compound to be listed as a Parameter of Concern?
- What are the specific criteria and the mechanism for deleting a compound from the Parameters of Concern?
- If a compound has been added to the Parameters of Concern using the 303(d) listing and is removed from that listing, will that compound then be deleted from the Parameters of Concern?

Mr. Murrill raised valid procedural questions regarding the criteria to be used for listing as well as the procedure to be used in deleting

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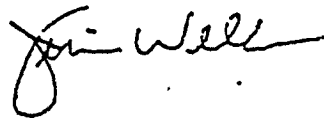
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compounds from the Parameters of Concern. The Parameters of Concern list should reflect the compounds including specific pesticides that pose a Bay Delta water quality threat. If any of the listed compounds, including specifically listed pesticides, fulfill the requirement for deletion then they should in fact be deleted. Establishing a clear procedure for listing and delisting chemicals from the Parameters of Concern list will ensure that the CalFed Program devotes its resources on areas of legitimate concern.

I hope this clarifies DPR's ongoing commitment to the CalFed Program and water quality protection. If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



James W. Wells
Director
(916) 445-4000

cc: Mr. Steven Murrill
Mr. Steven Monk, DPR Legislative Coordinator